Superfund Research Funding Opportunities Web Seminar Q & A
January 30, 2013, 1:30– 3pm

The following questions were asked during the "NIEHS Superfund Research Program (SRP) Funding Opportunities Web Seminar". The archived webinar can be found on the EPA CLU-IN website. Additional information was added to some of the responses after the webinar to help clarify the original response. For questions pertaining to the Request for Applications (RFA) or how to apply electronically, please contact SRP Program Administrators: Dr. Danielle Carlin (danielle.carlin@nih.gov; 919-541-1409) or Dr. Heather Henry (henryh@niehs.nih.gov; 919-541-5330). For questions regarding review of applications, please contact Dr. Linda Bass (bass@niehs.nih.gov; 919-541-1307).

Q. How much detail is allowed for Appendix materials? Is there a page limit?

A. There is no page limit for Appendix materials. The application should stand alone and should be supportive of the application. Nothing should be placed into the appendix that is required in the application as it may affect the evaluation and scoring of the application. Reviewers will receive both the application, appendix materials, and other review-related information, but reviewers do not always look at appendix material.

Q. Can the application be submitted via Grants.gov?

A. P42 applications should be submitted using the Assist system (https://public.era.nih.gov/assist), or the applicant can refer to the current RFA and click on "Apply For Grant Electronically".

Q. Can the Letter of Intent (LOI) include suggested reviewers for specific projects and cores?

A. Please do not submit suggested reviewers in your LOI. The LOI should contain information pertinent to the application, titles of research projects and cores, the names of key personnel in the application, and the names of institutions.

Q. Is the Community Engagement statement part of the 12 page limit for the Community Engagement Core?

A. The Community Engagement Statement should be included in the 12 page research strategy section. This should be placed after the abstract for the CEC. Additionally, for applicants proposing a Community Engagement Research Project, the Research Strategy should also contain a "Community Engagement Statement".

Q. Are the Specific Aims included in the 12 page limit Research Strategy for each Project and Core?

A. The Specific Aims is limited to one page but is not to be included in the Research Strategy section, which is limited to 12 pages. Each Project and Core will upload its own aims as well as a separate attachment for the research strategy in the assigned areas in ASSIST.

Q. What type of supplemental information can be submitted after the application deadline (April 10th)?

A. You are allowed a maximum of 3 pages to include updated publications, updated grant support, and any changes in major key personnel.

Q. Will the Research Translation Core (RTC) and Community Engagement Cores (CEC) be separately reviewed? Is there the possibility that if the RTC and CEC are reviewed separately there might be some aspects missed from each of those Cores?

A. They will be reviewed separately. It is also important that the applicant describe each of their Cores and Projects sufficiently so that they are stand-alone sections in the application. Reviewers may, at times, only be assigned to specific sections of a P42 Center application. The applicant should consider writing their application with this perspective in mind.

Q. For which section does the budget justification belong? Is the leadership and implementation plan a part of the budget justification for a core?

A. The budget justification comes directly after the budget section of the respective Project or Core. The leadership and implementation plans should not be placed in the budget section. These plans should be included within the Research Strategy section.

Q. Does travel to the SRP annual meeting need to be included for admin, Core and Project leaders, and four trainees? Is this included in the Administrative Core budget?

A. Travel to the SRP Annual Meeting should be included in the Administrative Core budget. Travel support to the Annual Meeting should be provided for the Administrative Core leader (i.e., Center Director), all Project and Core Leaders, and 4 trainees.

Q. Can funding for equipment instrumentation maintenance contracts be included in the budget?

A. Yes, these expenses may be included in the budget.

Q. Are letters of support included in one section, or separately included for each Project and Core?

A. Please include letters of support separately for each project and core, and they should be placed in the other attachments section in ASSIST.

Q. If a PMCID has not been assigned, how should applicants cite those publications?

A. Please following the NIH guidelines for citing publications. The NIH Public Access Policy (http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process.htm) ensures that the public has access to peer-reviewed publications arising from NIH funded research. If a publication has not been published, please state whether it has been published or is in press.

Q. How do you evaluate a research project or Center that focuses on a specific Superfund site, routes of exposure, and/or the health outcomes?

A. It is best to contact SRP staff with more specific information as to what is being proposed. SRP Staff is readily available to discuss your application proposal.

Q. Do we need to use a PHS398 continuation page for the application?

A. It is best to follow SF424 guidelines and the ASSIST guidelines (http://era.nih.gov/era_training/assist.cfm) which will provide the exact forms that need to be used. The PHS398 is primarily used for development of application.

Q. Can a description of a seminar series and a list of proposed seminars that are expected to be hosted by the Training Core be included in the Appendix materials? If this is acceptable appendix material, how many pages are allowed?

As a reminder, Appendix material is intended to support the application and information that is pertinent to the review and scoring of any component must be included in the application. Reviewers may or may not carefully review information submitted the Appendix section. With that said, this information can be submitted in the Appendix material.

Q. Can web addresses be added to the grant? Or are they not permitted because this may circumvent any page restrictions?

Web addresses are not encouraged, since reviewers are NOT required NOR have any obligation to access web sites for information that should be included in the application.